bour courts for the last 12 years and due to which the families of the affected persons have become victims of starvation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the efforts being made by Government to provide relief to the concerned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Infrastructural support to rural labour to eradicate exploitation and indebtedness

2380. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Rural Labour has confessed that neither the evploitative money lending system nor the perpetual indebtendness among rural labour can be eradicated by Government's present credit policy; and

(b) if so, what are the measures planned by Government for creating infrastructural support for the rural labour?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The National Commission on Rural Labour have observed that neither the traditional money-lending system nor the incidence of indebtedness among rural labour families can be made to disappear through credit policy working in isolation.

(b) The Planning Commission is already laying emphasis in the Eighth Plan on employment growth and better earnings in rural non-farm sector through promotion of industry in rural areas. Provision of training/skills, technology, marketing assistance and credit to rural non-agricultural activity has been considered essential.

Consumption credit of Rs. 1000/- is being made available to weaker sections-small farmers, rural artisans etc. in the case of IRDP beneficiaries, this credit is given in the nature of working capital.

In order to make institutional credit more accessible to rural households, a multi-agency system comprising of Co-operative Baks, commercial Banks and regional rural banks has been adopted to disburse such credit. Refinancing facilities are extended by NABARD for the promotion of small scale, cottage and village industry, handicrafts and allied economic activities. Subsidies are extended to tribal fish farmers through agencies like Fish Farmers' Development Agency. RBI have issued directions that collateral securities by way of mortgage of land etc. or third party guarantee may not to be insisted upon for term loans upto Rs. 10,000/-

VIII National Safety in Mines Conference

2381. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment have received requests from different quarters to hold the VIII National Safety in Mines Conference

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Requests have been received for holding the Conference on Safety in Mines. At present, for reasons of economy there is a ban on holding of conferences. In the circumstances, the proposal to hold the above Conference is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Conversion of provident fund into pension Scheme

2382. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: